

Minutes of the Work Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held February 18, 2015 at the Courthouse Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Those present: Casey Hopes, Commission Chair
Jae Potter, Commissioner
Jake Mellor, Commissioner

Also present: Seth Oveson, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Deputy Clerk
Jason Llewelyn, Emergency Services
Paul Bedont, Price City Fire Chief
Whitney Waterfall, Emergency Services
Johnnie Powell, Wellington City Fire Chief
Christian Bryner, Attorney
Barry Horsley, County IT Director
Sheriff Jeff Wood

Clerk's Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law was filed.

Commissioner Hopes welcomed everyone. The meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

1) Oil Spill and Fire response in County – J. Llewelyn, P. Bedont

Paul Bedont explained that there have been several accidents around the country involving gas and oil trucks and rail transportation. Locally most have occurred on gas well roads in Duchesne County.

Paul is concerned about the amount of crude oil trucks that will be impacting our road. The local agencies are not prepared for a major accident. They do not have enough equipment to control a burning truck. The biggest concern is if an accident occurred in a populated area like in front of the hospital or next to Creekview Elementary School. He further explained procedurally if there is no fire at an accident you evacuate to 300 feet and then expand or contract the area based on whether there is fire potential.

A waxy crude oil spill needs to be cooled and solidified quickly, making clean up easier and reduces the risk of fire. If a spill catches fire then it's a bigger issue. Rail car disasters are also a possibility especially with all of the rail crossings we have in the County. We do not have the ability to suppress a large burning accident. It is not his intent to shut down the crude oil shipments but we need to be prepared to handle an incident. It is not an option to let an accident burn from Helper to Ridge Road because of the population density.

Commissioner Hopes asked what equipment is needed. Paul said to suppress a combustible liquid fire, Class B foam is needed. Right now Price City has 50 gallons of Class B foam in five gallon buckets which won't be able to suppress a fire fast enough. Class B foam costs \$125.00 per five gallon bucket and has a twenty year shelf life. Hazmat also has some Class B foam. A truck to produce and pump foam is a better option. During a recent crash in Spanish Fork they used a Provo Airport fire truck which could pump foam. If there is an accident at the airport the same problem exists.

The discussion continued with Paul outlining the best options for a foam spreader, some of these are: a water tanker with a foam cell, a foam trailer and a pull truck or acquiring a military truck and converting it to a foam truck. This last option would be the cheapest at \$90,000. These trucks are designed for off road and would work at the airport where the ground is soft.

Jason said the military trucks would be easy for the County to acquire. Commissioner Hopes asked which agency would hold the truck and is it time to go to a unified fire district so that the truck is available to the entire County. Paul said he is not opposed to a unified fire district but it is a political decision.

Commissioner Mellor asked how soon the foam truck is needed. Paul has a truck coming for brush fires but it could be used for both with the addition of foam equipment. He currently has no place to park another truck. One option would be to park it in the ambulance garage which is close to the airport and the highway.

On February 25th a meeting is being held to talk about a unified fire department. The foam truck could be presented as a need over the entire county.

Commissioner Hopes said with a unified fire district, the buying power would be greater because of the volume of incidents that could be counted. Commissioner Mellor asked with regards to the vehicle already being acquired for brush fires, how ownership is transferred and what would be the cost to make it a foam truck. The ownership of the new truck is already transferred to Price City and the cost would be about \$80,000 to modify. Paul proposes that we approach CIB for a 100% grant to match since we have the risk of the oil transfer stations in the County.

Commissioner Hopes asked if the military truck has quick response and handling. Paul said they do carry a lot of weight but they are designed for more speed. They are designed by the military to keep up with tanks.

Seth asked if one truck would be enough. Paul said that all we can prepare for is what is reasonable: a one truck roll over that catches fire with a response time of ten minutes. Anything bigger accident would involve evacuating people first. Jason said each department has small quick response attack trucks that can slow a combustible accident until a foam truck is in route.

The discussion continued concerning how to fund a truck by charging a small impact fee per barrel of oil creating a reserve account to purchase additional equipment. A fee could be charged as the oil is being offloaded from truck to train. Impact fees are expected by the oil companies.

The Highway 91 and 6 interchange is an area of concern. The number of oil, gas and coal trucks will continue to increase. In the last three days there have been three truck accidents in Carbon County.

Paul said a professional engineer could be hired to figure out how much equipment is needed. This needs to be a requirement from the producing companies from the beginning in order to protect the communities. Paul went over ideas for an emergency plan. The companies need to meet with local fire departments to see what resources are available. Johnnie Powell is worried that the new businesses on Ridge Road do not have adequate fire suppression built into their facilities. No one is prepared for a major accident.

This needs to be addressed in the planning meeting with local fire departments. Commissioner Hopes said we need to have conversations with the companies. If companies are planning on Wellington responding then they need to make sure that Wellington has the equipment in place to take care of the problem. Wellington is the response agency for that area and Dan and Jason need to visit these businesses. Some businesses are harder to work with than others.

Commissioner Mellor asked what authority does the County have. For safety reasons, Dave Levanger could pull their operating permit and shut them down if necessary. Security around the filled rail cars in Wellington is also necessary and is not in place.

Commissioner Mellor said that a good recommendation from all the fire departments on how to proceed is needed. These issues affect everyone and a solution would be easier if dealing with one entity. Paul said that there is a good working relationship with all the fire departments in the County.

Commissioner Hopes asked if the CIB would be in favor of modifying a truck. Commissioner Potter said that retrofitting is an option. More money would be available from a combined fire district. If the money is leveraged then more grants and low interest loans are possible.

Transportation and coal production is on the rise. Johnnie would like to see one truck in the County as soon as possible. The discussion continued concerning a unified fire department, charging an impact fee and having UDOT address the Hwy 6-91 intersection. Commissioner Potter said there is a meeting scheduled

with UDOT on Wednesday, April 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. and this would be a good time to get on the agenda and present our concerns.

Discussion continued concerning funding for equipment and training firemen and departments. Paul's priority is to get something on the pavement now.

Paul and Jason thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Oveson, County Clerk/Auditor



